

SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

TRIBUNE

Circ.: e. 41,420

S. 42,073

Front
PageEdit
PageOther
Page

Date: APR 11 1961

A Touchy Subject

In 1947, when it became apparent that this nation was destined for a new type of warfare, as far as we were concerned, Central Intelligence Agency was established by Congress.

While Congress controlled the purse, there were very few strings put on the operation of the agency headed by Allen Dulles. The CIA Act of 1949 specifically exempts the cloak-and-dagger agency from the provisions of any law requiring publication or disclosure of the "organization, functions, names, official titles, salaries, or numbers of personnel employees."

The feeling apparently was that in this cold war, diplomacy would not suffice, and regular military channels could not be used. A big load was put on CIA to go quietly about the job of counteracting the spread of communism.

Methods used were not the concern of Congress and the American people. Results were of some consideration.

Successes of CIA are not known—but its failures are evident. The biggest failures have been the downing of a U2 plane over Russia, the capture of its pilot, and the Cuba invasion.

It is evident that our nation cannot overcome these failures. It is equally apparent that

the spotlight of a public airing by a congressional committee cannot be turned on CIA. Such a move would seriously hinder, if not destroy all effectiveness of this super spy agency.

President Kennedy's appointment of a key committee of Gen. Maxwell Taylor, Central Intelligence Director Allen Dulles, Adm. Arleigh Burke, and Attorney General Robert Kennedy, to study the shortcomings of CIA, seems to be the best way to discover the weaknesses of CIA without wrecking the entire agency.

The suggestion by Richard Nixon, former vice president, that intelligence and operations responsibilities in CIA be separated, warrants careful consideration in devising means to shore up the strength of CIA—this nation's first line of defense against our enemies from without.

It is very difficult in a democracy to conduct clandestine operations. This was pointed up in the CIA-Cuba story. And it is to our credit that it is difficult to conduct such operations. But, despite the clamor, very little is known about the CIA. A probe by responsible Americans, such as General Taylor, Admiral Burke and Dulles, can result in a stronger agency left in tact to continue its task of seeking out the secrets of our antagonists and devising counter measures to block their plans.